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Historical sketch of the Town of Greenfield,  
Saratoga County, New York, read July 4, 1876  
before the Greenfield Total Abstinence Society  
by R. E. Cronkhite, Esq. and forward-  
ed to the Librarian of Congress, pur-  
suant to the Proclamation of the Pres-  
ident.

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Greenfield was formed from Saratoga and  
Milton March 12, 1793. It contains 43,710  
acres of land, and its assessed valuation in 1875  
was \$344,244; and is embraced in the Kaya-  
derosseras patent, granted October 6, 1704.  
Among the early settlers may be mentioned  
the names of William Scott, Nathaniel Sey-  
mour, John Pettitt, Dan Cronkhite, Aaron  
Hale, Nathaniel Daniels, Israel Williams, Ste-  
phen Comstock, John St. John, John and Eli-  
jah Smith, James Dunning, Jeremiah Wescott,  
Walter Hewitt, Prince Wing, Noah Weed,  
Lewis Graves, Elihu and Paul Anthony, Am-  
brose Cole, Nathan Medbury, Abner Williams,  
Charles Deake, Israel Young, Gershom More-  
house, John Prior, Salmon Childs, Daniel Scott,  
Isaac Reynolds, Philip Allen, Joel Reynolds,  
Benjamin Worden, Jonathan Depel, Asahel  
Porter, Adam Bockes, Ephraim Bullock, Giles  
Fitch, Joseph Hawley, Fredrick Weed, John  
Harris, Ezekiel Harris, and Robert Early;  
nearly all of whom died in the town. The last  
two survivors were Elihu Anthony and Dan  
Cronkhite, Anthony dying April 23, and Cronk-  
hite April 25, 1863, their united ages being 190  
years; each having resided in the town over 70  
years.

The first town meeting was held at a log  
house near King's station, on the Adirondack  
railroad, April 1, 1794; at which William Scott  
was elected the first supervisor, and the follow-  
ing laws were passed:

Voted, that the constables shall give bonds  
for the faithful performance of their office.

Voted, that the pathmasters shall return  
their warrants ten days before the next annual  
town meeting.

Voted, that hogs that run on the common  
shall be yoked in the following manner: The  
yoke to be the width of the neck above the  
neck and half the width below, and the cross  
piece twice the thickness of the neck.

At a town meeting held April 7, 1795, the  
following acts were passed:

Voted, that fences four feet and a half high,  
and well built, shall be a lawful fence.

Voted, that the fence viewers shall have six  
shillings per day when called to do duty in  
their office.

Voted, that the law respecting hogs shall be  
the same as it was the year past.

Voted, that the following men serve in the  
office set to their respective names:

Zenas Winsor, town clerk.

John St. John, supervisor.

Prince Wing, Jonathan Deuel, Charles Deak,  
jun., commissioners of highways.





Jonathan Wood, Lewis Graves, Jonathan Deuel, James Dunning, John Prior, assessors. Rufus Price, Ezra Abbott, poormasters. Daniel Scott, Jonathan Deykman, constables and collectors.

Joseph Deuel, James Dunning, Benjamin Ingraham, fence viewers.

Israel Rose, Walter Hewet, Benjamin Grea-nold, Eseek Whipple, poundmasters.

John St. John, Abel Deuel, Benjamin Worden, Lewis Graves, Doe Tiffany, Aaahel Porter, Joel Reynolds, given recognizance for keeping taverns, March 1, 1796.

The first commissioners of highways, 1794, were Jonathan Wood, Joseph Denison, Samuel Bailey. The first record of roads laid out by them is dated May 2, 1794.

The first religious society was The First Congregational church, organized 1790, with sixty-eight signatures; first church erected 1793, removed to present site in 1832. The first pastor was Rev. Elias Gilbert; present pastor, Rev. Z. T. Hoyt since 1855. Universalist church at Porter's Corners, and Baptist church at Greenfield Centre, 1816; first pastor at the Centre was Rev. ——— Blakeman. It is said of the carpenters who worked on the two last named churches, but two would go upon the scaffold to shingle the steeples, Morris T. Carpenter and Ebenezer Darrow. The next church built was the Second Baptist Church, 1836; next, the Baptist church at Middlegrove, 1838, with Rev. J. Goadby as the first pastor; next, the Methodist Episcopal church at Greenfield Centre, 1840, Rev. David Poor first pastor; and Methodist Episcopal church at Porters Corners, in 1845, J. D. Burnham first pastor. Sixteen young men who were either born here or resided here in their early years, have entered the ministry.

Greenfield contains 22 district schoolhouses. Eminent members of the bench and bar of this and other states, also successful merchants and physicians, can point to Greenfield as their native town. The first gristmill in town was built by Gershom Morehouse at Middlegrove; the first machine for wool carding by Israel Young, at the same place; the first sawmill was built by Benjamin Clunch, near Porter's Corners, he having also kept the first store at that place; the first apple trees are said to have been planted by William Scott on the farm now owned by Samuel Bailey; the oldest deeds or leases are dated 1786; the oldest person now living in town is Mrs. Lydia Medbury, who is in her ninety-fifth year.

Population of the town in the year 1800 was 3,073, in 1810 3,087, attaining its highest number (3,298) in 1825; in 1875 it was 2,692, being lower than any preceding. There have been 35 different persons elected to the office of supervisor in 83 years—Aaahel Porter, Jonathan Lapham, and Edwin C. Weed, five years each, (A. Porter chairman in 1801); Salmon Child, John Pettitt, and Nehemiah Wing, four years each; John St. John, Adam Bockea, F. J. Wing, Freeman Tourtelott, H. G. Sweeney, and Warren Dake, three years each; William Scott, Aaa C. Barney, John Prior, Samuel McCrea, Charles Deake, Henry Miller, Levi Smith, B. F. Prior, Lewis Wood, A. C. Allard, Alonzo Rusaell, I. G. Johnson, De Witt C. Hoyt, Warren Bockes, and J. V. Smith, served two years each; Elihu Wing, Joseph Wood, Cheater Foote, Calvin W. Dake, Oscar Granger, H. S. Freeman, and John H. Smith, one year each; J. L. Rowland, present incumbent. Present justices of the peace, C. S. Latham, Theodore Comstock, B. S. Robinson, and Starka Dake, all under forty years of age; Mr. Dake being the youngest man ever



elected to that office in town. An item of interest connected with town officers is the fact that Dan Cronkhite voted at 70 consecutive town meetings. A very sad accident occurred in town September, 1812, Martin Blackmar being accidentally shot by William Williams while hunting bears in a cornfield. The Adirondack railroad crosses the town, having two stations, South Greenfield and King's. There are five post-offices, Greenfield Centre, North Greenfield, South Greenfield, Porter's Corners, and Middlegrove.

In the eastern part of the town is a ledge of rocks in one of which is a large cavity, smooth as an earthen dish, which, tradition says, was used by the Indians for pounding corn in; and an early settler in that locality has affirmed, as a fact, that it had been used for the same purpose by white settlers.

A number of societies exist in town—St. John's Lodge number 22. Free and Accepted Masons, organized in 1802; first presiding officer was John St. John; present presiding officer, E. A. Rood, has 75 members. Greenfield Centre Lodge, Independent Order Odd Fellows, number 308; first presiding officer was C. W. Mosher; present incumbent C. Brigham; was organized 1872, and has a membership of 80. Kayaderosseras Tent number 69, Rechabites, organized 1876, membership 20; first presiding officer, H. C. Hewitt; present officer, J. D. Plummer. Empire Lodge number 965, Independent Order Good Templars, instituted 1870; first W. C. T., Lewis S. Mills, who is the present incumbent; number of members 108. Greenfield Total Abstinence society, which this day commemorates, was organized April 1, 1809, at this place. First president, Rev. Elias Gilbert; present incumbent, H. C. Hewitt. Greenfield claims the honor of having the oldest temperance society that has maintained an unbroken organization from its commencement to the present time. Many other items of interest might be added, but time forbids. Hoping this very brief history has not been wearisome, I now close this centennial sketch of the town of Greenfield.



















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